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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EUR-12 AF-10 TRSE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4961
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1595

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GY, CU
SUBJECT: GUYANA PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT CUBA

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM, HIS FAMILY AND SEVERAL GOG OFFICIALS WILL DEPART GUYANA JULY 22 FOR A WEEKEND VISIT TO CUBA. A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH CASTRO. THE VISIT RESULTED FROM URGING BY CASTRO, ACCORDING TO FONMIN WILLS. HE HAS ASKED THAT US OFFICIALS NOT REVEAL TO OTHER GUYANESE THAT THE US IS AWARE OF THE TRIP.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 18 FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS MENTIONED TO CHARGE THAT BURNHAM HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM PRIME MINISTER CASTRO TO VISIT CUBA. THE MATTER WAS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE TUESDAY CABINET MEETING. THIS MORNING (JULY 20) WILLS CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE TO SAY THAT BURNHAM HAD DECIDED TO GO TO CUBA THIS WEEKEND. HE WILL
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TAKE HIS ENTIRE FAMILY, STOPPING OVER IN TRINIDAD TO PICK UP HIS TWO DAUGHTERS BY PREVIOUS MARRIAGE. CASTRO IS MAKING AVAILABLE A RESORT HOME AT VERDEDERO BEACH FOR BURNHAM'S FAMILY.

2. ACCOMPANYING BURNHAM WILL BE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES DESMOND HOYTE, FONMIN WILLS, RANJE CHANDISINGH,

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THE DIRECTOR OF CUFFY IDEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, AND HEROM RASHID (WILLS SAID RASHID WAS A YOUNG EAST INDIAN PROTEGE OF BURNHAM). ENROUTE BACK ON JULY 24, BURNHAM WILL STOP IN JAMAICA TO BRIEF PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ON HIS MEETING WITH CASTRO.

3. THE ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WILL BE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO HAVE A WEEKEND OF REST AND A FAMILY REUNION; HOWEVER, THE REAL REASON WAS THAT CASTRO HAD WANTED A "TOUR D'HORIZON" DISCUSSION WITH BURNHAM. CASTRO HAD INDICATED HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH BURNHAM IN GUYANA, IN A THIRD COUNTRY OR IN CUBA. THE CUBANS HAD PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS BE DISCUSSED: BELIZE AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES, PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS, MIDDLE EAST, BELGRADE MEETING, AND INTELLI-GENCE INFORMATION. IN ADDITION, CASTRO WOULD GIVE BURNHAM A BRIEFING ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO AFRICA.

4. THE GUYANESE INTEND TO:
--PERSUAD THE CUBANS TO BUY RICE.
--SEEK CUBAN HELP IN PERSUADING LIBYAN LEADER QADHAFI TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO GUYANA.
--INFORM CASTRO "POINT BLANK" THAT THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT THE IDEA OF A "NEW INTERNATIONALE" OF RADICAL STATES IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.
--INFORM CASTRO THAT THEY WILL NO LONGER ACQUIESCE
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WITH CUBA'S POSITION ON PUERTO RICO AT NAM MEETINGS.
--DISCUSS WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SPLIT BETWEEN THE CUBANS AND THE SOVIETS CONCERNING GUYANA(I.E. BURNHAM VS. JAGAN). IN THIS CONNECTION, WILLS SAID THE GUYANESE INTEND TO REMIND CASTRO THAT BOTH THE CUBAN AND SOVIET EMBASSIES ARE ACCREDITED TO THE GOG AND NOT THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY.
--INQUIRE CONCERNING CUBAN INTENTIONS IN SMALL INSLANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN.
--INFORM CASTRO THAT TH GOG IS UNHAPPY OVER ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. (.NOTE: AMBASSADOR KOTENEV WAS RECALLED TO MOSCOW FOR CONSULATIONS JULY 20.)

5. WILLS INTERPRETED CASTRO'S URGENT REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION AS EVIDENCE THAT CUBA AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE CONCERNED OVER THE RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN GUYANA AND THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT HE HAD TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE VISIT TO CUBA AT THIS TIME WAS NOT CONVENIENT, BUT BURNHAM HAD ISOLATED HIM IN THE JULY 19 CABINET MEETING AND HAD PUT HIM IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO DEFEND HIMSELF AS A SOCIALIST. HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT

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THE VISIT BECAUSE HE FELT THAT CASTRO WOULD PLAY ON
BURNHAM'S SENSITIVITIES, AND BURNHAM WOULD FEEL PRESSURE
TO MAKE SOME RADICAL STATEMENT DURING OR FOLLOWING THE
VISIT. APART FROM THE COMMUNICATION AND EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE, WILLS DOES NOT BELIEVE
ANYTHING CONCRETE WILL COME OUT OF THE VISIT. HE SAID
"IT WILL BE A SOUL TRIP."

6. COMMENTARY FOLLOWS.
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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